

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the title and claim 13.

Title

The Examiner believes the title of the invention is not descriptive. Applicants disagree, but are willing to amend the title. Please replace the title on page 1, lines 1-3 with the title, --Receiver Structure for Receiving a Light Unit of a Motor Vehicle--. Applicants submit this title sufficiently describes the claims of the application.

Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings arguing that the drawings do not show every feature of the claims, in particular certain subject matter of claims 11 and 12. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) (requiring the drawings to “show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.”). Applicants believe the drawings do show every feature of the invention and do not believe new drawings are required.

The subject matter of claim 11 is shown in Figures 1 and 2, specifically clips 13, 14 provided on the fender 1 and on the receiver structure 9. Clips are one example of a fastener means for fastening the receiver structure to the fender. Similarly, the subject matter of claim 12 includes clips 13, 14, which are fusible fastener means for fastening the light unit to the receiver structure. See, e.g., specification, page 8, lines 1-6. Applicants submit new drawings are unnecessary because the drawings show all elements of the claims.

Claim Objection

The Examiner objects to claims 12 and 13. Regarding claim 12, the Examiner objects to alternative language, that is, “and/or,” in the claim. In fact, this language was deleted in a preliminary amendment upon entrance into the US national phase. The preliminary amendment corrected various informalities relating to US practice and also added new claim 23. Claim 13 has been amended to clarify the relationship between the wheel arch and the receiver structure. Support for this amendment is found, for example, on page 7, lines 14-15. Applicants submit the amendments overcome the Examiner’s objections.

102 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13, 15, 16 and 18-22 as anticipated by US 6,416,209 to Abbott. Independent claims consist of claims 1, 19, 21 and 22. Claims 2-13, 15, 16 and 18 depend from claim 1 and stand or fall with the independent claim.

All independent claims recite “fastener means for fastening the light unit to the receiver structure, which means conserve the reference position of the glass relative to the fender as imposed by the means for putting the glass into a reference position.”

In other words, the receiver structure is configured in such a way that the order of assembling the fender, the light unit and the receiver structure is the following:

1. the glass of the light unit is first put into a reference position relative to the fender,
2. the light unit is secondly fastened to the receiver structure.

The receiver structure allows the above order of assembling the fender, the light unit and the receiver structure, and so reduces the accumulation of tolerance errors in an

outside module of a motor vehicle. See page 2, lines 7-8 of the specification.

Anticipation can exist only where each and every material element of a claim is found in a single reference. Abbott recites a lamp assembly 16 mounted in a front quarter panel 14. See column 2, lines 34-35. More precisely, Abbott recites a lamp assembly 16, which could be considered as a light unit having a glass 50 and a housing 34, but Abbott does not recite any receiver structure for receiving the assembly lamp 16 and fastened to the panel 14.

Furthermore, Figure 4 shows the lamp assembly 16 as mounted on the panel 14 by inserting the assembly 16 from the right to the left of figure 4, and then by coupling the latch 38 with the panel 14. Accordingly, Abbott first assembles the lamp assembly 16 separately from the panel 14, by coupling the socket 34 (including a housing 40, contacts 42, a bulb 44) and the lens 50, with tabs 52 (see column 3, lines 7-8). Once the socket 34 and the lens 50 are coupled, the lamp assembly 16 is mounted on the panel 14. Thus, the lens 50 recited in Abbott is not put into a reference position relative to the panel 14 before fastening a light unit to a receiver structure.

In light of the above, Applicants submit Abbott does not recite a receiver structure, and also does not recite means for fastening a light unit to the receiver structure, by conserving a reference position of a glass of the light unit relative to the fender. Abbott lacks multiple elements of the independent claims and so cannot anticipate the claims. Claims 1-13, 15, 16 and 18-22 are patentable over Abbott.

103 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 17 as obvious in light of Abbott. Claims 14 and 17 depend from claim 1 and are patentable as depending from an allowable claim.

Claim 23

Claim 23 was not mentioned in the present action. Claim 23 depends from claim 1 and is patentable as depending from an allowable claim.

Applicants submit pending claims 1-23 are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Date: 07 September 2007
3103 Wilmington Road
New Castle, PA 16105
Tel: 724-944-3452
Fax: 724-270-1049

Respectfully submitted,
/james r. williams/

James R. Williams
Reg. No. 43,268